

Direct Taxes (CBDT)/Central Board of Excise & Customs (CBEC). The upgradation of pay scale of two services has been done as an exception specific to these two categories of posts. Such cases of upgradation of pay scale are required to be examined by concerned Cadre Controlling Authorities in consultation with the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions. So far, no formal proposal from the respective Administrative Authority has been received in the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions.

Representation of SCs/STs in bureaucracy

2495. SHRI BALIHARI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether representation of SC and ST in the higher echelon of bureaucracy is dismal;
- (b) the total number of Secretary, AS, JS in Ministries and the numeral and percentile representation SCs/STs;
- (c) the special efforts being made by Government to ensure representation of SCs/STs at above said levels in Ministry in accordance with their reservation which is 15 per cent and 7.5 per cent;
- (d) the eligible SCs/STs AS/JS who could be promoted to the rank of Secretary and additional Secretary; and
- (e) by when Government propose to promote?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI):
(a) to (e) The total number of Secretaries, Additional Secretaries and Joint Secretaries posted in the Ministries/Departments is 378. The posts of Secretary, Additional Secretary and Joint Secretary in the Ministries/Departments are not promotion posts, with the exception of posts in the Ministry of External Affairs etc. where the posts of these designations are cadre posts. Under the Central Staffing Scheme, the posts of Secretary, Additional Secretary and Joint Secretary in other Ministries/Departments are mostly filled by appointment of officers, borrowed from various cadres including the State cadres and empanelled to hold such posts. At the time of empanelment, every effort is made to empanel officers belonging

to the SCs/STs, if necessary by adopting liberal yardsticks/benchmarks as compared to officers from the "General" category.

Irregularities in Civil Services Exams

2496. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the aspirants for the Civil Services-2006 had alleged irregularities in the conduct of the preliminary examinations by the UPSC and had sought disclosure of marks and cut-off obtained by each candidate and if so, whether UPSC had refused to comply with the demand;

(b) whether the Central Information Commission has now directed the UPSC to provide the information sought for by the candidates as provided under the RTI Act; and

(c) whether the UPSC has been depriving SC/ST candidates for the Civil Service exams of their legitimate quota on selection, by including the SC/ST candidates selected under the 'General' category in the SC/ST Reserved category?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI):

(a) According to information made available by UPSC, no representation alleging irregularities in the conduct of the Civil Services (Preliminary) Examination, 2006 has been received from the candidates in the UPSC. Some candidates did ask, under the RTI Act, for the disclosure of individual marks obtained by them and cut-off for different optional subjects for each category SC, ST, OBC and General. The applicants were informed by the UPSC that the information sought by them formed part of Commission's crucial secrets and intellectual property under Section 8(1)(d) of the RTI Act, 2005.

(b) Yes, Sir. The Central Information Commission had directed UPSC to disclose the marks assigned to each of the applicants for the Civil Services (Preliminary) Examination, 2006 in General Studies and Optional subjects and to disclose the cut-off marks fixed in respect of each of the Optional Subject and if no such cut off marks are there, it shall disclose the subject wise marks assigned to short listed candidates. However, the